

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 5 remain active in this application and have been allowed. Claims 6 - 12 have been canceled and are being presented in a concurrently filed continuation application. No new matter has been introduced into the application.

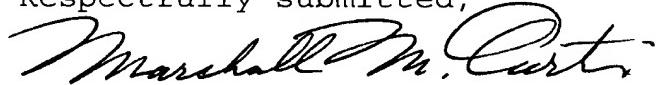
Claims 6 - 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Hibbs et al. and claims 8 - 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hibbs et al. in view of Bentley. No other issues are raised in the present official action. These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed as being moot in view of the above cancellation of claims 6 - 12.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above-requested amendment places this application in *prima facie* condition for allowance and should be entered for that reason. The cancellation of all claims other than allowed claims 1 - 5 clearly reduces issues by eliminating all issues which have been raised by the Examiner and cannot raise any new issues. Therefore reconsideration and allowance of the application are clearly in order. If the Examiner should become aware of any issue precluding immediate allowance of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone at the number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve the same.

Since all rejections, objections and requirements contained in the outstanding official action have been rendered moot, it is respectfully submitted that reconsideration is now in order under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.111(b) and such reconsideration is respectfully requested. Upon reconsideration, it is also respectfully submitted that this application is *prima facie* in condition for allowance and such action is therefore respectfully requested.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



Marshall M. Curtis
Reg. No. 33,138

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P. C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, Virginia 20190

(703) 787-9400
Customer Number: 30743